



WOODWORKERS

CLUB OF HOUSTON

Vol. 1, No. 6

JUNE, 1985

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Ray Fortenbach	- Vice President	Bill Hocmuth	- Board of Directors
Mark McCoy	- Sec./Treasurer	Sharon Buckley	- Board of Directors
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MAY MEETING

Our meeting got off to a slow start, because our hosts, the Gibbs Plywood Company, didn't realize everybody in the club enjoys arriving a little early, so they have more time to visit and share tales and techniques. Have you ever meet a woodworker who didn't enjoy talking about wood?

Steve and Vicki Procter were our lecturers for the day. For those that didn't make it; it was all about cabinet and case carcass construction. I had to leave a little early to help the "Make-a-Wish" foundation, but it was easy to see that Steve was well prepared and knew his subject. I think everybody enjoyed it and came away with some useful information.

As part of the program, Rich had everybody introduce themselves and tell a little about their woodworking activities and desires. We had about 75 in attendance with at least 3 or 4 guests, who I hope join us permanently.

SHOW & TELL

I couldn't believe the number of projects Don Sloan's telephone crew brought out. It was one of the best Show & Tell's we've ever had and the talent that avails in the club is "AWESOME" (heard that word before) I tried to get everybody's name and the project they brought, but I missed a few. Especially the ones that didn't have on their name tags. Give me a break fellows, you know I can't hear, but I can see, so please remember to wear your name tags.

Below are listed the ones I did record. Save the names of those who have made a project you hope to try so you'll know who to ask for help when the time comes.

Julius Lang	- Shaker Regulator Wall Clock
Perry Moreau	- Bow Saw, Dovetail Saw Box, and the most unusual Spirral Spring cut from a rotted log. It was really beautiful.
Lawrence Polzer	- Several beautiful Jewelry Boxes, including one his students had built.
Jud Sevy	- An Adjustable Footrest for his daughter.
Don Sloan	- A Carved Cherry Quiltrack from Woodsmith.
Tim Vanya	- A Solid Oak End Table with a glass top.

C. S. Pertyl	- Two maple violins - one birds eye & one curly maple. They were beautiful.
C. H. Adams	- Bow saw, carpenters level, and a teak briefcase.
Jim Adkins	- A rocking horse made of poplar.
Murray Gordon	- A computer stand with rounded corners.
Jimmie Harp	- A rolling pin of mesquite, tool box and Woodsmith's carved quilt rack.

The ones that I missed getting the names and I do apologize, was a hand carved civil war pistol, and antique tool for removing nails without damaging your piece, Oh Yah! I brought arosewood and mahogany bowl I had turned.

It was a super Show & Tell. It would be easy to become intimidated by the talent in this club, such as C. S. Pertyl's violins, but don't. That's what the club is all about, learning and sharing. You should have seen what I was able to build two years ago, compared to today. I'm not there yet, but I've come a long way.

OLD BUSINESS

Those of you that have received the newsletter and/or attended one of our meetings and would like to join WWC of Houston, just send \$12.00 to Mark McCoy - P.O. Box 34481 - Houston, Tx 77234. Those that join in July only have to send \$6.00.

Arleigh Meyer has designed a club membership card using our new logo and Claude Emory has volunteered to help fill them out on each current member. Many of the companies we do business with have offered discounts to club members, but they wanted to be shown something so it could be verified. The new club membership cards will serve this purpose. Hopefully they will be available at the next meeting.

Harold Evans and Doug Blodgett are our official club photographers. They will keep a picture record of our meetings and special events. The pictures will be in our photo album and displayed at each meeting for all to see.

We have three tentative meeting places now.

- 1) Gibbs Plywoods
- 2) Hardwood Lumber
- 3) Baroids

Henry Reed and Chet Benefiel are going to check out Baroids for us and report to us at the next meeting.

Rice University supposedly has a shop larger than the U of H's, so Ray Fortenbach is going to check with a professor friend of his and see what our chances are of using their shop sometime.

I sold about 10 Astro tickets for the "Make-a-Wish" foundation at the club and I want to thank those members for their support.

Sharon got her new roster out this time and I think we all owe her a hearty thanks. Sharon, who is a Charter Member, has been an untiring force in the club, and without her support this newsletter would never have arrived. THANKS SHARON!!!

WORKSHOP & CLINICS

Steve Proctor had taken this very important section of our club under his wing. I know Steve will offer many improvements in the way it functions and the services it offers to the membership.

Give Steve your support and those that have proficiency in some phase of woodworking, please offer your services to Steve and your fellow members. You'll get more pleasure and benefits for your effort than you can imagine.

It's really true - giving is a lot more fun than getting.

Steve still needs instructors for either workshop or clinic for the following:

- 1) Router techniques
- 2) Veneering
- 3) Marquertry
- 4) Woodcarving
- 5) Finishing

If you want others just till Steve at the next meeting.

Mike Chandler offered a new workshop on spindle turning and workshop on lathe bowl turning. Other clinics available are:

- 1) Spindle Turning
- 2) Project Design
- 3) Hardwood Installation
- 4) Carved Bowls
- 5) Raised Panels
- 6) Shop Layout
- 7) Minature Furniture
- 8) Machine Maintenance
- 9) Leather Apron for Chisels
- 10) Tool Making & Hand Planes
- 11) Hand Plane Adjustment & Use
- 12) Band Saw Boxes

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Hochmuth has replaced Ted King on the Board of Directors. Ted is trying to finish building his airplane this summer. Bill will be a welcome addition. He will try to add additional advertisers for our newsletter.

I was real proud of the membership at the last meeting. The talking in the crowd was down considerably and the speaker didn't have to fight for our attention. For those such as myself, who have a hearing problem, it was great. I heard almost everything that was said and got a lot more out of the meeting.

One of our newer members brought his daughter to the meeting and I also saw a few more wives. This is great. Bring the kids and the wives. That's what the Woodworking Club of Houston is all about - SHARING.

I still need someone to type the newsletter on a computer. The boarders come out so much straighter that it makes the whole newsletter easier to read, plus it looks more professional.

I will remember to bring the bulletin board next meeting, so we can have a place to pin up our new photos before they go in the album, plus a place to put your Show & Tell pictures for projects to large to haul around.

Sam Zeisman has agreed to be the chairperson of our annual chairty show again. He did a terrific job last year when we were able to give the Depelchain Faith Home a check for \$2,000.00.

Sam has already arranged with the Northwest Mall at Loop 610 & Hwy 290 for our show. It's set for October 25 & 26, that's a Friday & Saturday. For you new members this is strictly a volunteer project. Each member is asked to donate one to four items that they have made, to be sold and the funds donated to a charity of the clubs choice.

The item you donate is a tax deductible contribution for you and the opportunity for the public to see our talent and the best part to help those that really need it.

Start working on your projects now. Don't wait till the last minute. If you do, your haste will show in the finished product. Do your best and be proud of what you contribute.

Also for those that haven't gotten theirs - Mark McCoy has the club caps for \$5.50 each and the club tee shirts are available with you name on the pocket by calling T-Shirts Plus at 957-2035. They are \$15.50.

Mark McCoy also has a few aluminum bar clamps available. Check with him at the next meeting.

We are still looking to write the various tool and wood suppliers regarding films we may rent or borrow, to be used as the subject of one of our meetings. Check with Arleigh Meyer, our program chairperson, at the next meeting.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Holding long boards in a bench vise can be a problem. A simple device can be made to support long boards. Drill holes in a straight line down the length of a piece of wood approximately 34" long by 4" wide by 2" thick. The holes should be about 1/2" to 3/4" in diameter, and about 1" apart. This device is clamped in the end vise on a bench and a dowel placed in the hole just under the board to be worked on.

Everyone knows that chisels and gauges should be whetted so that they are razor sharp and that an edge that "couldn't cut butter on a hot day" is useless. However, a properly sharpened chisel it is important to follow the following rules:

- 1) Do not try to hold a piece of wood with one hand while using a chisel on it with the other.
- 2) Always work with the cutting edge of a chisel moving away from your body.

EVERYONE'S GUIDE TO WOODWORKING

Drying Green Wood - Part II - by Michael Chandler

In this 2nd article on drying green wood, I will outline the procedure that should be used for removing moisture from wood until it is in equilibrium with the moisture content of its environment.

The first thing that needs to be done is to seal the ends of the harvested logs with something that is water resistant. A liberal coat of varnish, enamel paint or polyvinyl glue will do the trick. The purpose of "end-coating" green lumber is to prevent a too rapid drying of the wood through the ends. If water is allowed to escape from green lumber through the ends too quickly, then the lumber will be subjected to a great deal of stress resulting in checking and splitting.

After the logs have been "end-coated" they should be cut into flitches or, at the very least, split through the pith. The reasons for doing this are twofold. For one thing, it will further minimise the chances of the wood checking or splitting as it dries. For another thing, it will make it easier to stack and store the wood as it dries.

As soon as the green logs have been "end-coated" and cut into flitches (or split through the pith) it should be stacked out-doors with stickers separating each layer. Stickers are placed between each layer of wood to facilitate air circulation. If left stacked in a pile with little or no air circulation the wood will be slow in drying and will be attacked by fungus or mold. The fungus or mold will not attack the structural integrity of the wood, but it will cause discoloration in the wood. The wood should be protected from the elements by placing a cover over the top layer of wood.

The next step is critical. A sample of each species in the stack should be weighed and a note made of the weight and the day on which it was weighed. After about six months or so, the same samples should be removed from the stack and re-weighed. This procedure should be repeated after another six months has passed and then the sample pieces should be weighed every month thereafter. What you will notice is that the weight of the wood will decrease and then remain constant. When the sample pieces reach a constant weight the moisture content of the wood will be in equilibrium with its environment and will be "dry" relative to its environment. However, since the wood is out-doors, it will not be "dry" for making furniture and accessories. In order to remove more moisture from the wood so that it can be used for making furniture and accessories we must move to the next stage in the drying process.

When the weight of the wood has reached a constant weight, it should be moved indoors and stacked and stickered in a dry area. Again, the sample pieces should be weighed and a note made of the weight and date. Every four to six weeks the sample pieces should be re-weighed. The weight of the wood will again decrease and then reach a constant, when it will be "dry" relative to its environment. The wood stack should also be inspected on a regular basis for signs of checking or splitting. If checks or splits begin to appear it means that the wood is drying too rapidly. The amount of moisture that is leaving the wood can be controlled and decelerated by covering the stack with some sheets of polythene.

At this point, the best procedure to follow is to take wood that is to be used in a project and stack it in your workshop two to four weeks before it is actually worked on. The wood should be weighed periodically and should only be used after the weight has reached a constant measurement. Considering that most homes and offices are air-conditioned and/or centrally heated, this last step should be done by placing the wood in a room that is air-conditioned or centrally heated if your workshop is not air-conditioned or centrally heated.

By following this procedure, air dried wood should have a moisture content of about 12 percent to 14 percent. When the moisture is within this range then it should be stable enough to use in making fine furniture. To use wood that has a moisture content

higher than 14 percent is folly and will result in disaster. Rules such as "wood should be dried for one year for each of thickness" are poor rules to follow and can easily result in you using wood prematurely, while it is still green.

In the next article, I shall outline some "tricks of the trade" for turners and sculptors for using green wood.

SPEAK OUT by BRUCE C. DEHART

RESPONSIBILITY—the condition, quality, fact, or instance of being responsible, answerable, accountable, or liable.

What is the Club responsible for to its members? What is the membership and/or individual members responsibility to the Club? Are these responsibilities the same? Are the responsibilities interchangeable? Each of the members would probably answer these questions differently. This is what makes the world go around.

It has been said "you reap what you sow." Therefore, do not expect anymore from the Club than you are willing to contribute. Do not blame the Club if the clinics are not what you would like to attend if you don't indicate what you would like. Nor offer to put on clinics. If you do not attend the meetings, do not receive the newsletter and you did not call and indicate you had a change of address. We are all adults and we have the responsibility to do some things ourselves and not blame the club. We have a number of committees that have vacant slots that no one has come forward to fill, despite the repeated cries for help by Rich. Don't be bashful---step forward. We do not bite.

If you feel that you are not getting what you want from your membership in the Club; do the following: Point your index finger at any individual or individuals in the Club. Now look at your hand and count the fingers you have pointed at someone vs the number of fingers you have pointed at yourself.

DO YOUR PART. You will feel better, get more out of the club, and become a better member of the Club therefore making the Club better for everyone.

BUY & SELL

Dr. Larry Greenfield - 622-5990
Larry has about 2000 BF of oak, walnut, mahogany, cherry, birch & maple in 2 to 4 foot lengths for sale. He also has a DeWalt radial arm saw and a port-a-plane. Call him for prices and details.

JUNE MEETING

Our meeting will again be held at Gibbs Plywood at 1810 Brittmore. This time bring yourself a chair to sit on.

Our guest speaker will be Mike Overstreet, the manager of Gibbs, who will discuss plywoods - its construction, uses and techniques in getting the most from its use.

Thats Saturday morning - 9:00 AM - June 8th at Gibbs' warehouse.

SEE YOU THERE!!

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